



State Legislative Update for the Week of February 2 - 6, 2015

Monday, February 2, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Fenton, Nelson, Sanders, Youakim, Howe, Theis, Halverson, O'Driscoll, Pugh, Selcer, Albright, Scott, Nash, Dettmer, Runbeck and Lesch introduced:

HF 501: A bill for an act relating to elections; modifying provisions related to military and overseas voting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 203B.01, subdivision 3; 203B.16, subdivisions 1, 2; 203B.17, subdivisions 1, 2; 204D.11, subdivision 4. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Schoen introduced:

HF 506: A bill for an act relating to health licensing; providing temporary licensing as an LPC, LPCC, or LADC for former and current members of the military; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 148B.53, by adding a subdivision; 148B.5301, by adding a subdivision; 148F.025, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Johnson, C.; Poppe; Persell; Newton; Murphy, M.; Considine; Metsa; Pelowski; Marquart; Hansen; Bly and Clark introduced:

HF 545: A bill for an act relating to higher education; establishing a veterans-to-agriculture pilot program; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer introduced:

HF 546: A bill for an act relating to state government; permitting a government entity to release certain military release forms to another government entity for a limited purpose; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 196.08. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Hamilton and Dehn, R., introduced:

HF 561: A bill for an act relating to human services; establishing a jobs and health innovation grant program for hard-to-employ Minnesotans; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256E. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Bob Dettmer

Agenda:

HF 137 (Dettmer): Military retirees and survivors allowed a subtraction from taxable income, and past military service credit repealed. This bill allows a new income tax subtraction for individuals who receive military retirement pay (both retirees and their survivors). The subtraction equals \$1,500 for each year or portion of a year of active service, up to a maximum of \$30,000. The subtraction is not limited to the amount of military retirement pay received. In the case of married spouses who file jointly, each spouse can claim this subtraction. It repeals the nonrefundable credit for past military service. The credit is allowed for individuals with at least 20 years of service or who separated from the military with a service-connected disability and their survivors. The credit equals \$750 and is phased out for those with adjusted gross income from \$30,000 to \$37,500. Individuals currently eligible for the credit would be eligible for the subtraction. An amendment was adopted that would provide for the option of taking either the \$750 credit or the subtraction, which ever provided the most benefit. The bill, as amended, was referred to the House Tax Committee.

HF 134 (Dettmer): Veteran trust technical changes made, and obsolete provisions removed. This bill amends the statutes governing the Board of Governors of the Big Island Veterans Camp and repeals obsolete language. It authorizes the trustees appointed to manage the proceeds from the sale of the Big Island Veterans Camp (\$5.8M) to remove another trustee upon a majority vote and with the consent of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. The bill was referred to the General Register.

HF 283 (Kresha): Camp Ripley nearby lands designated as sentinel landscape, coordinating committee created, and report required. This bill establishes a coordinating committee to designate certain lands in the vicinity of Camp Ripley to be contained in the sentinel landscape. The purpose of this mission is to identify lands near Camp Ripley that are important to the nation's defense and Camp Ripley's role in the nation's defense. Owners of designated lands will be encouraged, with the aid of incentives, to voluntarily manage their land in a manner that is consistent with Camp Ripley's military mission. It also requires the Adjutant General, in consultation with the coordinating committee, to prepare a report, by January 16, 2017, on the committee's work and progress in shaping Camp Ripley's sentinel landscape. The bill was referred to the House State Government Finance Committee.

Kathy Vitalis, Executive Director of the **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**, provided a brief overview of the programs and services offered by the non-profit. MACV provides assistance to veterans and their families throughout Minnesota who are

homeless or experiencing other life crises. They provide transitional and low-income housing options, employment programs and access to legal assistance.

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senators Hall and Newman introduced:

SF 528: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; allowing a phase in for subtraction for Social Security benefits; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Anderson and Hall introduced:

SF 535: A bill for an act relating to lawful gambling; adjusting audit amounts for organizations; making clarifying and technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 297E.06, subdivision 4; 349.19, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senators Dahms, Weber, Thompson and Nienow introduced:

SF 603: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; providing a subtraction for military retirement pay; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Upcoming Committee Hearings of Veterans Interest Week of February 9 - 13, 2015

Monday, February 9, 2015

Committee: House Veterans Affairs Division

Chair: Rep. Bob Dettmer

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:45 PM

Agenda:

HF 141 (Dettmer): Veteran-owned small business certification modified for purposes of state procurement, contract bid preference required for veteran-owned small businesses in situations involving capital investment projects, and money appropriated.

HF 147 (Dettmer): Surviving spouses of deceased service members and permanently disabled veterans market value exclusion extended.

HF 299 (Heintzeman): Military retirement pay subtraction provided.

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Committee: House Taxes

Chair: Rep. Greg Davids

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 10:15 AM

Agenda:

HF 10 (Wills): Veterans jobs tax credit provided.

HF 137 (Dettmer): Military retirees and survivors allowed a subtraction from taxable income.